

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00437 280648Z

12
ACTION SS-30

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S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 0437

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRA PFOOR SO ET

SUBJ: SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS: FREDERICKS' VISIT

REF: MOGADISCIO 0378

1. SUMMARY: ADDOU APPEARS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FREDERICKS' MEDIA-TION EFFORT, BUT SIAD EXPRESSED "DISGUST" AT CHASE VISIT IN CON-VERSATION WITH ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR. WE FEEL USG SHOULD URGE FREDERICKS TO DEFER PURSUING HIS "MISSION", AND INDEED WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT HIS DOING SO EVEN AT SOME FUTURE ORME. IF IT APPEARS AT SOME FUTURE POINT THAT FREDERICKS WISHES TO RE-SUME HIS EFFORTS, WE WOULD LIKE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT BEFORE HE DOES SO. END SUMMARY.
2. AMBASSADOR ADDOU TOLD ME MARCH 23 FREDERICKS HAD BEEN GIVEN "CARTE BLANCHE" BY SULEIMAN TO GET SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN DIALOGUE GOING AGAIN. ADDOU SAID NEXT SETP ENVISAGED BY GSDR IS FOR FREDERICKS TO EXPLAIN SOMALI POSITION TO ETHIOPIANS (AFTER SIT-uation in ADDIS HAS SETTLED DOWN) AND GET ETHIOPIAN VIEWS TO BE RELAYED TO GSDR. ADDOU FEELS SOME PROGRESS TOWARD BETTER SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS CAN PERHAPS BE MADE THROUGH FRED-ERICKS' INTERMEDIARY ROLE.
3. HOWEVER, ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME IN GREAT CONFIDENCE THAT PRESIDENT SIAD, DURING LONG MARCH 19 CONVERSATION WITH HIM COVERING MUCH FAMILIAR GROUND (INCLUDING RENEWED ASSERTIONS OF
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CONTINUING GSDR INTENTION MAINTAIN CORRECT POSTURE TOWARD

ETHIOPIA AT THIS TIME) HAD SPOKEN IN VERY NEGATIVE TERMS ABOUT CHASE OFFICIALS' VISIT. SIAD ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY US TRYING TO "LURE" SOMALIA BY SENDING "BANKERS" TO MOGADISCIO AT THIS TIME; SOMALIA DID NOT NEED "ANYTHING FROM ANYONE". ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR NOTED TO SIAD THAT HE UNDERSTOOD CHASE OFFICIALS CAME AT GSDR INVITATION. SIAD IGNORED THIS POINT AND CONTINUED EXPRESS "DISGUST" AT BANKERS' VISIT.

4. ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR, WHO VERY RELIABLE AND THOROUGH REPORTER, GAVE NO INDICATION THAT SIAD HAD REFERRED TO ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN FREDERICKS' VISIT AND SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN DISPUTE. AMBASSADOR INDEED EXPRESSED SOME PUZZLEMENT AS TO WHY SIAD HAD RAISED VISIT WITH HIM. AMBASSADOR SAID SIAD'S MOD THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION HAD BEEN DEPRESSED AND IRRITABLE. HE FEELS SIAD'S COMMENTS ON CHASE VISIT MAY HAVE REFLECTED HIS GENERALLY NEGATIVE MOOD NEARLY AS MUCH AS SPECIFIC DISPLEASURE OVER VISIT ITSELF.

5. COMMENT: HARD TO TELL TO WHAT EXTENT SIAD'S COMMENTS TO ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR REFLECT HIS TRUE SENTIMENTS ABOUT FREDERICKS' "MISSION", THOUGH WE STILL BELIEVE IT A SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE SIGN THAT SIAD DID NOT FIND TIME TO SEE FREDERICKS. SIAD IS CURRENTLY UNDER PRESSURE FROM VARIETY OF SOURCES (ARABS, SOVIETS, ECONOMICS) AND IS PROBABLY PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO ANYTHING HE CONSIDERS TO BE PRESSURE FROM US. HE MAY ALSO FEEL THAT FREDERICKS IS TOO LOW-RANKING TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS MEDIATOR. (SIAD HAS IN PAST SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HIMSELF MIGHT TAKE ON THE TASK.)

6. SIAD'S COMMENTS IN ANY CASE ARE HARDLY PROMISING BEGINNING FOR A FREDERICKS MEDIATION ROLE, AS IS SIAD'S FAILURE TO SEE HIM. FURTHERMORE, SIAD'S NEGATIVE COMMENTS TO ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR WOULD SEEM CALCULATED TO REDUCE IEG CONFIDENCE IN FREDERICKS' ABILITY TO SERVE AS EFFECTIVE INTERMEDIARY.

7. BELIEVE THERE CONTINUES TO BE GREAT MERIT IN US POLICY OF STAYING OUT OF MIDDLE OF ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI DISPUTE. WE FEAR SIAD HAS FIRM IMPRESSION THAT FREDERICKS IS SPEAKING FOR USG; HIS NEGATIVE REACTION TO FREDERICKS' VISIT THEREFORE RUBS OFF ON US. MOREOVER, WOULD SEEM TO US HERE THAT SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA IS NOT NOW AND WILL NOT FOR SOME TIME BE PROPITIOUS

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FOR MEDIATION APPROACH BY FREDERICKS.

8. FOR ALL THESE REASONS, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN BEST INTERESTS USG TO URGE FREDERICKS TO GO VERY SLOWLY INDEED IN PURSUING HIS "MISSION", AND INDEED WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT HIS DOING SO EVEN AT SOME FUTURE TIME. AT A MINIMUM, HE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA LOOKED DISTINCTLY FAVORABLE TO SUCH AN ENDEAVOR AND SHOULD COME TO MOGADISCIO AND GET HIS LINES STRAIGHT

WITH SIAD BEFORE GOING TO ADDIS.

9. IF IT APPEARS AT SOME FUTURE POINT THAT FREDERICKSHWISHES
TO RESUME HIS "MISSION" WE WOULD LIKE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
ON WISDOM OF IT BEFORE HE COMES AND INDEED BEFORE PLANS BROACH-
ED TO SOMALIS.

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